

# Agriculture --- Florida's Opportunity

## Conducted by W. E. Pabor

### AN ORANGE TREE BORER.

Every year, at the beginning of the orange season, "experts" give their opinion of the coming crop. As the variation between the maximum and minimum estimates runs from one hundred to five hundred thousand boxes, every pessimist and optimist ought to feel satisfied. The one thing in the premises that is sure and certain is the fact that the demand will exceed the supply, despite California or Cuba, and will do so for many a year to come. The outcry about shipping green fruit is nearly over as the November sunshine stole into the skin of the fruit, and from now on will be "a joy forever."

Vegetarians have a strong argument in their behalf if, as stated by statisticians, twenty-three acres of land are necessary to keep one adult on fresh meat. The same area devoted to wheat or oats would feed about forty; if to potatoes, corn or rice 126; and if to the banana or plantain over 6,000. But this last statement we question. Given 1,500 plants to an acre, yielding each a bunch with twenty-five hands of eight fingers each, on twenty-three acres only 34,500 bunches would be obtained, giving less than six bunches per man, or about 1,200 bananas to feed him 365 days. Could he live on four per day? It is interesting often to dissect some of these statistics as given by so-called "experts," and find out what is fact and what fiction.

Under date of October 1, at the Florida Experiment Station, department of veterinary science, has issued a brief bulletin on Forage Poisoning, otherwise known under the names of grass or blind staggers, a common disease in summer in Florida and elsewhere, caused by eating fermental grains and hay or by grasses matted together near the ground and mouldy. Stagnant pond water in which vegetation is decomposing is another cause. The object of the bulletin is merely to call attention to the causes of the disease, so that owners will be more careful to provide their animals with pure food and drinking water. No remedies for cure are given, while three distinct types of the disease are given; but it states that if sleepiness or coma remain absent for a week recovery from the two milder types is almost certain.

H. Harold Hume in his book on citrus fruits and their culture says that the insects attacking citrus trees may be conveniently grouped as "biting" and "sucking" insects, "the first group including grasshoppers, orange dog and a few of less importance; the second group obtain their food from the trees by sucking the juices out of the cells." But it may be that a third class is in store for the orange grower in the shape of a borer, touching which the Fort Myers Press thus discourses:

"Mr. E. L. Evans, who makes a study of the orange, has recently discovered a new enemy, in his section, to the orange tree. It is a borer that digs through the bark and into the trunk an inch or two, making a hole as large as the head of a pin, and kicking out a stream of fine sawdust. The borer covers the trunk with these punctures until it finally girdles the tree, causing it to die. While examining a tree where the borer was at work, in company with Mr. Evans and Walter Langford, the little live gimlet was discovered. He proved to be a quarter-inch in length, and looked like a small beetle. A sure way to detect this new orange tree enemy at work is to look for the sawdust at the base of the tree."

Have any of our growers elsewhere than the Caloosahatchie valley met with this new enemy? If so, we should like to know it.

### THE WAUCHULA ADVOCATE'S HOMESEAKER EDITION.

The Wauchula Advocate recently issued a Homeseakers' Edition of 24 pages, magazine form, printed on heavy book paper, in which it claims to give a fair and impartial description of the territory surrounding the thriving little De Soto County town. It gives the result of interviews with growers, the old and the new settlers, and says each assertion made will bear the closest investigation. We are free to say that, between Bartow and Arcadia, on the line of the Atlantic Coast Railway, there is no town with greater promise as a trucking section

than Wauchula; and the officials of the A. C. L. know this and have brought in many homeseekers to settle upon the lands owned by the company. It is not, as Editor Goolsby truly says, a tourist town, but is the center of a large and productive fruit, vegetable and stock-raising country. The FLORIDA SUN congratulates Brother Goolsby on the excellent way in which the Homeseakers' Edition has been gotten up, and may it be as seed sown in good ground.

### CROP EXPORT NOTES.

A recent bulletin on the export of crops, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, states that the share of cotton, wheat, flour and corn exported from the Northern Atlantic ports has decreased, while the percentage sent from Gulf States has increased. Sixty per cent of the cotton was sent last year from Southern ports. Twenty years ago the Gulf ports sent out only 2 per cent of wheat, last year 55 per cent.

In 1904 nearly one-fourth of the cotton crop of the United States was produced in Texas, and more than one-half in Texas, Mississippi and Georgia. Much of the cotton raised in Mississippi reaches New Orleans and Memphis, and some goes to Mobile and Savannah. The leading primary market for Georgia cotton is Savannah, while Galveston receives, in addition to a large share of the Texas crop, considerable quantities from the Indian Territory and Oklahoma. More than 5,000,000 bales were shipped to Galveston, New Orleans and Savannah during the crop year ending August 31, 1904, and these three cities exported during the corresponding fiscal year nearly three-fourths of the total exports of cotton from the United States.

Savannah and Pensacola are mentioned as ports where cotton is the chief farm product exported.

Taken as a whole, the bulletin gives ample evidence of the increase of shipping from South Atlantic and Gulf ports—a sign of commercial growth that is very gratifying.

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# Helpful Hints for Her Ladyship

## By Eleanore du Bois

From distant New York city I am writing this, my first letter to my friends, the women of Florida, and in a few days I shall be with you at my desk and "working table" at THE SUN office, where my headquarters will be and where you can address me.

Truly there is much in anticipation for me. To think of the many letters you will write and the delight in getting in touch with you after a long absence from the State. Now it is good-bye to the gay and merry North to enjoy the welcome of the sunny, hospitable and glorious South.

Fortunately there need be no worry there, as here, as regards the diversity of opinion now prevailing as to the correct model for a fur jacket. Yet there is considerable warmth and delight in the smart boleros and Etons and these will find great favor during the winter season. The majority of the bolero jackets are elaborately trimmed and braided and exquisite effects are quite easily obtainable even if one does home dressmaking. Caracul is one of the favorite materials now in use.

The latest Paris styles are most lavishly displayed by the leading importers. There are hundreds of models—gowns designed by Paquin, Armand, Ignace and other artists.

Noticably are exquisite dinner and ball creations, lingerie gowns and dresses of Irish crochet lace.

Madame Havet's best art is shown in a combination lace effect with a bodice bolero of Irish lace. The shirt has panels of the same and a lining of chiffon and gold cloth.

One of the handsomest creations is an Irish lace Princess gown, with an extra coat trimmed with ermine.

Undoubtedly many of these dreams of the fashionable dressmakers' high art now on exhibition here will be seen in Florida during the coming winter season of 1905-1906, when the wealthy visitors gather at the palatial hotels of the State.

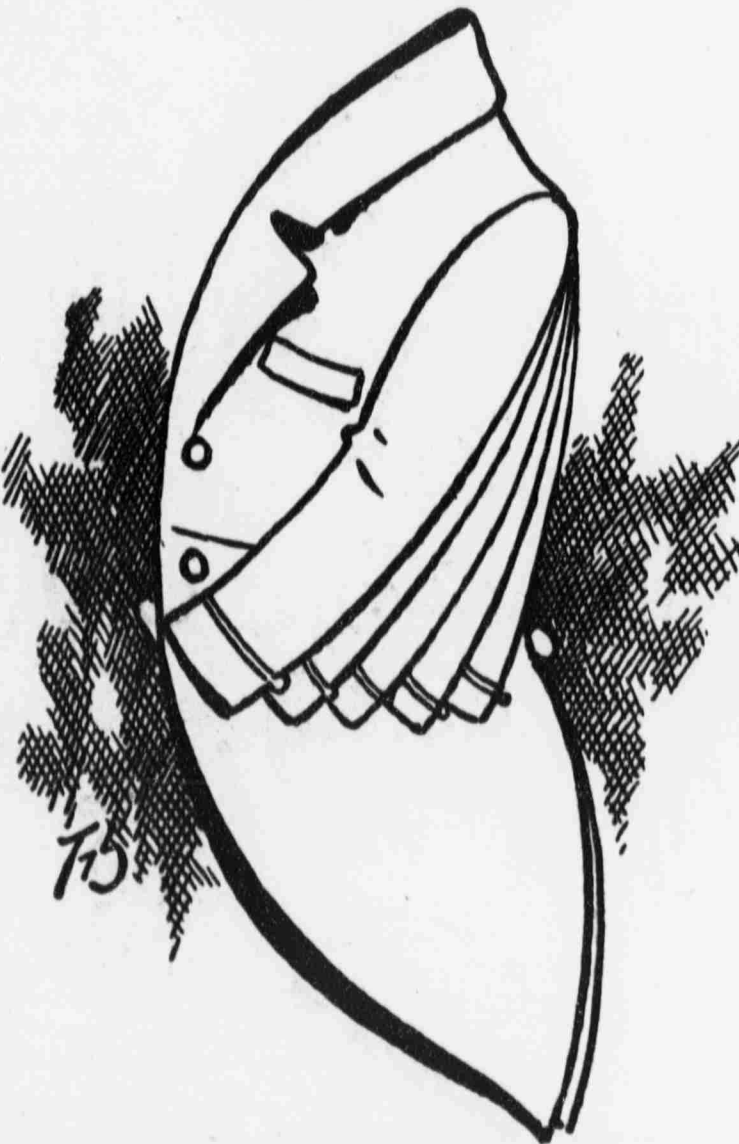
To talk of the beautiful exhibits made by the importers brings us to a consideration of the news of the shops, and especially at this season of the year is there a plentitude of news, for it seems that the stock of the many large houses is greater than ever and at this, the gay holiday season, when many of the sensible women are doing their shopping, several weeks in advance, the attractions

and the array of gifts and goods is as bewildering as it is useful and beautiful.

Decidedly pretty are the elbow gloves, which are an important feature of this winter. These gloves come in all of the new shades.

With the tailored suit it is quite the correct

### A COURT OF ARMS



A suggestion to those who want a device for their carriage or automobile panels. It saves trouble hunting for the family tree.

thing to wear a plaid silk waist. These waists are shown in a variety of colorings.

Especially pretty and effective for evening wear in Florida would be one of the dainty silken scarfs shown here in pale blue with a border of Dresden flowers.

Moire ribbon is seen again, not only in the ribbon displays but also in trimming effects. This popular ribbon is being used in the trims of the new skirts and coats.

Net waists trimmed with Duchesse braid fashioned into a pretty conventional design, are among the quick selling waist models. At a West Twenty-Third Street shop these beauties can be had from \$7.75 up and they are bargains at this low price.

The most conspicuous veil is the veiling known as the complexion net. This, as its name would indicate, is of a lustrous flesh color tint, the mesh being besprinkled with velvet or chenille dots.

Chiffon cloth in pure white or a deep cream tint is to be had in a fine quality for \$1.50 a yard.

Dainty French berthas are noticed on display at some of the shops and these pretty accessories can be had from \$2.50 to \$10.00. The berthas are fashioned out of a combination of silk lace and cotton, resembling Irish crochet that is very fetching.

For small curtains, sash curtains, etc., the most popular decoration at present is ribbon work, which is used for all sorts of fabrics in floral and ribbon designs. For very elaborate rooms, where flowered damask is used for draperies, plain damask or heavy satin with ribbon work decorations is used for sash curtains.

Sleeve protectors are useful and practical things to make for church fairs. They are nothing more than deep cuffs, which are worn over the sleeve and slipped on over the hand. They are to have a scalloped edge at the top with simplest design under it, worked with white, whether the linen is dark blue, brown, or yellow. A scallop on the bottom is often seen, but the cuff is quite as well without it. School girls and those engaged in continuous hours of writing find them a great saving of dress sleeves.

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